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L.A.F. FRESH VICTORIES

TAY NINH (Mar. 20 — Apr. 3) : **3,100 G.I.'s Wiped Out, 346 Vehicles Including 249 Tanks and Armoured Cars Destroyed, 40 Aircraft Downed.**

QUANG NGAI (Mar. 23) : **400 G.I.'s Put out of Action, 6 Planes, 6 Ordnance Pieces, 10 Military Vehicles, 1 Munition Store and 1 Petrol Depot Destroyed.**

BEN TRE (Mar. 23) : **6 Vessels Sunk, 4 Others Damaged, 1,000 Enemy Troops on Board Wiped Out, Including 300 G.I.'s.**

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President HO CHI MINH's Reply — A Stern Indictment of Johnson's Obduracy and Brazenness and an Expression of the Justice of the Vietnamese People's Cause. PAGE 5

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THE HUNTERS HUNTED

QUYET THANG

THE U.S. second dry-season strategic counter-offensive in South Vietnam is meeting with increasing and heavier setbacks. Once again the American expeditionary troops have not only proved incapable of knocking out any unit of the L.A.F. and of forcing them back into scattered guerilla actions, but they themselves have been delivered telling annihilation blows. And once again the "search and destroy" tactics used in this strategic counter-offensive have lamentably come to grief.

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U.S., PUPPET TROOPS GET WIPED OUT IN INCREASING NUMBERS; THE L.A.F. FIGHT LARGER-SCALE BATTLES

AS is widely known, in the 1966-67 dry season the Americans have at their disposal more than 400,000 G.I.'s, some 50,000 satellite troops, and over 500,000-strong puppet army, along with 2 to 3 times as many aircraft, artillery pieces and armoured vehicles as in the previous dry season. On the opposite side, keeping pace with the powerful development of people's war, the regular forces of the L.A.F. have rapidly grown up and, in co-ordination with the guerillas, launched unremitting attacks of various sizes in all theatres on both American and puppet troops. This has posed a very serious threat to the aggressors, and explains why when Westmoreland underlined the importance of the "pacification" plan and made new efforts to bring it to fruition he always regarded the "search and destroy" tactics as a primary one. His principal aim has constantly been to wipe out the L.A.F., to strike at the resistance bases and to compel the Liberation troops to spread thin their strength, to keep them on the move and thus deprive them of the possibility of large-unit actions. To this end, the aggressors mustered fresh mobile forces and mounted a series of large-scale attacks against the resistance bases in East Nam Bo, in the Western High Plateaux, the plains of Central Trung Bo and the Mekong delta. They also devised a number of tactics such as the use of light infantry brigades to take by surprise exposed L.A.F. units and harass resistance bases, and armoured regiments to support ground forces with a view to encircling and splitting their opponent, opening and blocking communication lines, in an attempt to annihilate L.A.F. big units. And that in addition to massive bombings by strategic B.52's.

Very clearly, the enemy's "search and destroy" plan in the current dry-season strategic counter-offensive is very ambitious and so far strenuous exertions have been made to implement it. Early in November 1966, the USIS revealed that President Johnson was envisaging a new phase of the war with large-scale operations and U.S. brigade-and division-strength forces would be committed.

1 — Major Operations Carried Out with Various Forms of the "Search and Destroy" Tactics in All the Forest, Hill and Plain Theatres Frustrated.

The East Nam Bo theatre witnessed pretty heavy and bitter failures of the aggressors. **They were failures of the "search and destroy" and "smash bases" tactics in the forest and hill theatres.** In Tay Ninh alone, of the three big operations, one involved 30,000 G.I.'s *Attleboro*, Nov. 1966), and one 45,000 *(Junction City*, Feb. 1967) : the Americans lost respectively over 3,000 officers and men, one light brigade put out of action, and 8,300. No sooner had they announced the success of their "search and destroy" and "smash bases" tactics than they incurred further losses and found themselves forced anew to "search and destroy" their adversary, and "smash their bases" just in the same places!

In the "search and destroy" operation in Plei Trang, Western High Plateaux, which was in fact a manoeuvre to break through the L.A.F.'s encirclement and to cope with their offensive the U.S. expeditionary troops lost 2 battalions and 8 companies in one engagement (*Paul Revere* 4, late Oct. and early Nov. 1966).

(Continued page 2)

L.A.F. fighters pursuing G.I.'s
Photo GPX

Up to April 2 NORTH VIETNAM

1,748

U. S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED

On U Thant's New Peace Proposal

Nhan Dan *commentary of April 3*

ON March 28, 1967, U.N. Secretary General U Thant made public in his private capacity a three-stage proposal on the Vietnam problem, envisaging : firstly, a general stand-still truce ; secondly, preliminary talks ; and thirdly the reconvening of the Geneva Conference.

The above proposal is aimed at restoring peace in Vietnam. But, regrettably, it does not proceed from the fact that the war in Vietnam has been unleashed by the U.S. imperialists, furthermore it puts the victim of aggression on the same footing as the aggressor. It is an obvious fact that the Vietnamese people has done no harm whatsoever to the United States, and that it is the U.S. Government which has committed an American expeditionary corps to an aggression against South Vietnam and undertaken air and naval attacks against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. That is precisely the reason why the world's peoples including the American people vigorously support the Vietnamese people's just resistance and demand that the United States bring its aggression to an end.

IN March 1966, U Thant put forward a 3-point proposal requiring its first point that first of all the U.S. stop bombing North

(Continued page 3)

THE HUNTERS HUNTED

(Continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, **several actions against the liberated areas in the plains of Central Trung Bo intended to facilitate the "pacification" work of the puppet forces and wipe out part of the L.A.F. and guerillas**, caused other losses to the American, puppet and satellite troops. During the terrorist raid *Thayer* 2 at Bong Son (Dec. 1966) 2 infantry battalions and one artillery battalion of the First Airmobile Cavalry Division were annihilated at Loc Giang and Xuan Son. The Pak Jung Hi *Blue Dragon* suffered heavy casualties on Hill Ong Kon and at Quang Thanh (Dec. 1966 and Feb. 1967). As for the puppets, a heavy toll was taken from them, including 2 battalions entirely knocked out and 3 others seriously whittled down in Operation *Lien Ket* (co-operation) 8B with the support of U.S. and Pak troops (Feb. 17 to 19, 1967).

Also in the plain theatre, in the Mekong delta, the regional armed forces and people dealt a hammer-warning blow at **the first U.S. operation *(Deckhouse 5)* and the plan to assign to puppet troops the "pacification" work in this area**. 5 puppet battalions were completely annihilated in Ben Tre, Long An and Tra Vinh within the first two months of this year and one puppet regiment swiftly knocked down in an engagement at Go Quao.

Thus, as a result of major operations alone, the U.S., puppet mobile forces, according to still incomplete data, have lost some dozen battalions since the beginning of the dry season. This number includes one U.S. brigade put out of action, one puppet regiment and one squadron annihilated, one Pak Jung Hi brigade heavily thinned down and 600 tanks and armoured cars destroyed. This was a very important part of the enemy forces. What was remarkable was that the Americans lost entire units in all theatres, from the Central Trung Bo, the Western High Plateaux and Nam Bo plains routine scenes to new ones like Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces in the Northernmost part of South Vietnam and the Mekong delta down South. In some operation fields such as Kontum, Quang Ngai and Binh Dinh, they suffered more serious losses than in the previous dry season, the number of units annihilated wholesale having almost tripled. These belonged to the various arms and services: marines, airmobile forces, infantry, even the newly set-up light infantry brigade and the freshly landed armoured regiment. New tactical and technical efforts have been made to "search and destroy" the L.A.F. and their bases but all of them have proved futile. For instance, the new light infantry brigade marched in the van as a decoy to take Liberation troops by surprise with an armoured infantry division rumbling on the rear (this tactics failed in the first engagement in Tay Ninh); an armoured division was sent out to encircle and split the opponent in the coarse of military operations and to support U.S. ground troops, but all these devices fell short of expectations.

2. Fighting Larger-Unit Engagements, the L.A.F. Win Greater Victories.

Drawing lessons from their bitter setbacks in the 1965-66 dry season, from the start of the present counter-offensive the U.S. aggressors have done their best to dodge the L.A.F.'s big punches. In everyone of their campaigns they displayed greatest caution, and in each engagement they increase their air and ground fire to the highest degree possible. They resorted to many security precautions in their front and rear bases just as when they pitched their camps. But all that did not ward off L.A.F. repeated large-scale attacks against the American, puppet and satellite forces, which demonstrates the progress they have made, as shown by the following observations:

— The L.A.F. were able to mount big offensives on all theatres, at a given moment, from several directions.

— They were in a position to field large forces not only in the forest and hill areas as in the Western High Plateaux and in Tay Ninh, but also in the plains as in Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Ben Tre, Can Tho and Rach Gia, even on terrains where the enemy could easily bring into play the fire-power of their aircraft and artillery.

— They made big strides in the art of operational conduct. The outstanding success of the Tay Ninh campaign (Nov. 1966) lay in their ability to lure the enemy into battle, in the co-ordination of the three categories of the Liberation Armed Forces, in the combination of large-unit actions and scattered guerilla activities, in the development and combined use of varied fighting methods, and finally in coping annihilation of adverse troops with the countering of "pacification" moves so as to knock them down and preserve their bases. The Plei J'rang campaign marked a significant advance as compared with the Plei Me campaign last year from the point of view of swift action, lightning destruction and sustained fighting. Here each engagement was larger than the previous and the L.A.F., who held firm the initiative from the beginning to the end, forced their opponent to throw fresh troops into the battle so as to mow them down.

— The L.A.F. struck quickly and annihilated swiftly in all forms of action inside and outside adverse fortifications. They now mounted assaults as at Go Quao and Loc Giang, now launched surprise attacks as at Xuan Son, Chau Hung and Quang Thanh, hitting gun emplacements, airfields and munition dumps as in Tan Son Nhut, Long Binh, Plei Me, Quang Tri, Chu Lai and Da Nang. Those splendid feats of arms were annihilation blows which took heavy tolls from the adversary not only in men but in weapons and other war implements as well.

— On the basis of a powerfully and widely developed people's war, the Liberation regional troops have grown up rapidly and become capable of fighting large-unit battles. They have been credited with numerous successful annihilation engagements and the destruction of entire companies and battalions in Tri-Thien, Quang nam, Quang Ngai, Ben Tre, Can Tho...

Obviously enough, the U.S. aggressors have completely failed in their scheme to force the L.A.F. to fall back on small-unit, scattered actions. The Pentagon has too hastily boasted that the latter have been compelled to disperse in thick forests, and that mobile warfare sprang from guerilla warfare in the sixties of this century has been stopped short. As a matter of fact, however, they already found themselves forced to concentrate 30,000 and the 45,000 men in a single operation, with fierce resistance base. Was it to deal with small guerilla units? It was but the aggressors' very admission that their "search and destroy" tactics has come to a fiasco, and that before them the L.A.F. stood firm, ready to deliver them more and stronger blows.

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WHY CAN'T THE U.S., PUPPET TROOPS ESCAPE DESTRUCTION AND STAVE OFF L.A.F. LARGE-SCALE ATTACKS?

THE accomplishment of the "search and destroy" strategic task requires plenty of mobile forces and the launching of many successful offensive operations. In this second dry-season counter-offensive, it further demanded that these be major ones, launched simultaneously in several theatres, from many directions, and that success be guaranteed to most of them. The Americans were unable to meet the requirements for the following reasons:

1. The U.S. troops were in an unfavourable military position, and in spite of large effectives they lacked mobile forces while their attacks unfolded in unsteady conditions.

In comparison with the last dry season, the Americans gradually doubled their strength. But they did so from a losing position and in face of the tremendous growth of people's war. They had to scatter their reinforcements to cope with the situation everywhere. They had not, in fact, substantially increased their mobile forces and were unable to mount many attacks in many theatres at the same time, let alone the sagging morale of the American and puppet troops. In pratice, unlike last year, when Westmoreland embarked on the present counter-offensive he was not in a position to send sizable mobile forces to the various battlefields. Indeed, after concentrating them on the East Nam Bo front he could but launch operations of a defensive character on the other fronts. Operation *Paul Revere 4* aimed at breaking the siege of the defence works of Plei J'rang. Likewise Operation *Thayer 2* in Binh Dinh which involved one brigade at the outset, had just the task of fanning out into the neighbouring area to help puppet troops' "pacification" job, rather than for a clear-cut "search and destroy" purpose. Only after they had provisionally eased L.A.F. pressure on their position in Kontum did the Americans hurl another battalion into a "search and destroy" adventure which resulted in heavy casualties for them. Even in East Nam Bo where they managed to launch four middle-scale raids at the same time in October 1966, once confronted with the imminent annihilation of the 196th light brigade in Tay Ninh, they called off the three raids in Binh Duong, Bien Hoa and Ba Ria to concentrate on Operation *Attlebero* in Tay Ninh.

Furthermore, the "search and destroy" tactics is part and parcel of an offensive or counter-offensive action. As such it can achieve success only in a steady military position. Failing this any such offensive or counter-offensive constitutes an adventure bound to come to a flop, and to aggravate the passive and losing position of the attacker. The American aggressors have no big and strong strategic mobile forces in South Vietnam and have always stood on unsteady ground. Following the failure of their first counter - offensive and bitter blows struck at their subsequent dig-in plan, they entered the current dry-season counter-offensive with a more deteriorating military position. They and their puppets have been beaten from all sides, from within and without, thus having to confront their advesary everywhere in an utter quandary. That is why, although the Americans strive to wriggle out of their predicament as best they can, their second dry-season counter-offensive plan bears the marked character of a defensive one. Most of their operations are designed to relieve their bases, garrisons and posts and occupied urban centres from the pressure and encirclement of the L.A.F., as well as to re-open communication lines. They have had to cut down their "search and destroy" ambitions to a limit "suitable to their possibilities" as they themselves put it! And so, unable to wipe out the L.A.F. they have turned to "smashing their bases", and incapable of contending successfully with them they have set out to "search and destroy" the guerillas! In reality such operations with a manifest "search and destroy" objective as those in Tay Ninh cannot at all dispense with the consolidating of their foothold. When the L.A.F. resumed their onslaughts on the occupied network in this region, preventing them from meeting that requirement, they had to put an end to the campaign which resulted in the "search and destroy" tactics falling short of its goal. This fact demonstrates that from a bad military position, even with a large mobile force, dreaming of "searching and destroying the opponent" is a mere illusion.

In contrast with this deteriorating strategic position of the Americans, that of the armed forces and people of South Vietnam has become unceasingly steadier and more offensive. The latter are resolved to crush their enemy's second strategic counter-offensive. On the strength of their repeated victories during the last dry season and the subsequent raining season, they have set up new theatres for offensive actions in the plains, in the hills and forests, in the occupied towns and cities, thus encircling and encroaching on the Americans and their puppets, holding them under constant pressure everywhere. This fine and firm strategic position has enabled the L.A.F. not only to intercept and wipe out the U.S. and puppet mobile forces who ventured to intrude into the liberated zones, but also to take advantage of their initiative and knock down sizable adverse forces in the latter's bases. All that testifies to the irresistible development of people's war that no efforts whatsoever of the aggressors can possibly hinder. It also confirms the weakening position of the U.S. expeditionary troops and the grave danger of their destruction in ever-larger numbers.

2. Faulty U.S. conduct of military campaigns and combat operations: while "searching" for the L.A.F. they practically avoid them, and in fighting them they solely rely on fire-power.

In the present dry-season counter-offensive, the aggressors who have been clamouring that they have been out to "search and destroy" the L.A.F. to all intents and purposes are afraid to get destroyed by them. They are scared by their "traps". This explains why during their campaigns and in the fighting they prove half-hearted, with the care to avoid annihilation by the L.A.F. foremost in their minds. The achieving of the aim pursued by the "search and destroy" tactics requires resolute observance by officers and men of the guiding principles governing a given campaign and the operations it involves. It further demands that, with an equal determination, they tightly encircle and powerfully assail their opponent, and use shock troops to wrest victory in each engagement. The American aggressors, however, dread large-scale destruction when they deploy their forces and merely rely on their fire-power so much so that they never show single-mindedness, let alone the resolve to closely encircle their adversary to swiftly knock him out, but on the map. This lukewarmness has been amply illustrated by their biggest operation so far in Tay Ninh province. Seeing that their 196th Brigade was heavily battered by the Liberation troops, Wetsmoreland and his commanding staff mustered all their available mobile forces in an effort to surround the L.A.F. and wipe them out. But obsessed by the fright of being trapped, both wings of the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions dared not execute the set plan. Their "caution" was such that on certain days they covered no more than a few miles. Thus fearing annihilation — an obsession tetting all their actions — the G.I.'s tried their best to avoid four things: mopping up in remote areas going far away from their landing places, meeting the Liberation regulars and close-range fighting. How could they find the hard-core of the L. A. F. when in their "searches" they avoided them? And how could they really "destroy" them when they shirked hand-to-hand combats?

The forte of the American troops in using their "search and destroy" tactics and avoiding annihilation is practically to rely on the fire-power of their aircraft and artillery. They count on the effect of their fire-power in their offensives, in their assaults and pursuits. Their much advertised "initiatives" in this dry season are nothing else than this. As a result, in practice, they have never succeeded in knocking out an entire unit of the L.A.F. however small, even with savage bombings by B52's. Reality has confirmed that, if in war weaponry cannot replace man, in tactics too fire-power, however strong, and mobility, however great, can in no way play the decisive role in the outcome of an operation and in the destruction of the opponent. His role falls on the assaulting force. Weak as they are, how can the U.S. ground forces afford to achieve this end?

While strengthening their strategic position, the L.A.F. have been stepping up their attacks without let-up. From the very beginning of the dry season, they have not waited until the enemy execute their counter-offensive plan to strike back at him. They have made use of, and actively created for themselves every opportunity to hit him even when he was still devising his "search and destroy" scheme.

Not only the Liberation regular forces but also the regional troops have tided over difficulties to mount large-scale attacks. The L.A.F. in all theatres have struck strong blows, bringing pressure to bear on the enemy everywhere, giving all his operations the marked character of defensive ones, exposing him to inevitable losses. Grasping the guiding principle of active offensive and the principle of annihilating the opponent whenever they engage him, the L.A.F. have made further progress in the conduct and execution of their operations, as well as in tactics. They have successfully applied clever devices to tightly encircle enemy troops, to make deep splitting thrusts, to rely on assaulting forces to conclude the fighting, and use the close-range fighting tactics to neutralize the effect of air and artillery fire-power and, thereby, destroy whole adverse companies and battalions, along with scores of armoured cars at a time.

The development of people's war in South Vietnam from scattered guerilla activities to large-unit actions constitutes an irresistible upward trend. The "search and destroy" tactics of the U.S. aggressors can only supply the Liberation forces with more chances to knock them down.

INCREASED U.S. CRIMES IN NORTH VIETNAM

ON Mar. 26, 1967, at 3.05 p.m., 10 U.S. planes raided Liep Mai hamlet of Quoc Oai district and several other hamlets of Thach That district, Ha Tay province. They dropped CBU (Cluster bomb unit) bombs, then explosive fragmentation bombs, then again CBU bombs on the dwellings of Liep Mai hamlet, on rice-fields and pastures. Seven CBU's and 8 explosive bombs were dropped on the dwelling area, and 4 CBU's and 2 explosive bombs on the fields. Of the 272 households with 1,108 inhabitants of Liep Mai hamlet, 10 persons were killed on the spot, among them 6 children and 4 women. 35 other persons were wounded, of them 21 children. Many domestic animals were killed or wounded. In other hamlets, there were one child killed and 6 persons wounded, all the 7 casualties had been tending buffaloes and oxen in the fields, among them 3 children.

In the Jan. 24, 1967 issue of the *New York Times*, a Pentagon spokesman denied the use of bombs of this kind against targets in North Vietnam. In Liep Mai hamlet, a new sampling of unquestionable evidence has been collected. On one half of a CBU container the following inscription could be read:

Cyclotol 122 lbs.
Loading date 2-67
Lot PA 20-41 Serial 2.

Swedish physicians J. Axel Hojer and John Takman, and American lawyer Hugh Manes, of the 3rd Investigating Team of the Bertrand Russell International War Crimes Tribunal, who were conducting on-the-spot investigations of this U.S. bombing, issued a statement denouncing it and concluded:

"As to the March 26, 1967 raid against the Liep Mai hamlet, we have critically and carefully examined the evidence. The density of CBU bomb explosions and the concentration of the "bomb carpets' formed by the 10 explosive fragmentation bombs and the bombs from 11 CBU. containers suggest that U.S. planes were flying at a low altitude, probably less than 800 metres, deliberately attacking the Liep Mai hamlet and its inhabitants. It was a sunny day. Outside the hamlet proper, there is not a tree or anything else to protect the people from being seen. The fields and the pastures are completely free from all objects which could confuse the picture as seen from a plane. The pilots of the planes in the March 26 raid cannot have failed to clearly see the children with their cattle running for shelter. The inescapable conclusion of the raid is that it was a deliberate and flagrant mass murder of a civilian population".

Meanwhile, the U.S. aggressors also launched systematic air attacks on dykes and hydraulic works in various provinces of North Vietnam such as the fierce strike at the Bao Van dyke section in Nga Son district Thanh Hoa province, the bombing of Bach Hac pumping station in Vinh Phuc province and of the Tay Ninh water gate, on the right bank of Day River, Ha Tay province, the raid conducted in many waves and with dozens of tons of bombs on a dyke section on the left bank of Tra Ly River, Thai Binh province, the attack on the irrigation canal of the River Chu network, Thanh Hoa province, and the bombing and rocketing of Do Luong dam, Nghe An province...

These are new most odious crimes of the U.S. imperialists, which shock human ethics and conscience. The D.R.V. Ministry of Water Conservancy has protested most strongly against these crimes and emphasized that these savage air attacks by the U.S. imperialists demonstrated that they still persisted in deliberately attacking in a systematic manner the hydraulic works and dykes in North Vietnam, especially in densely populated areas, with the design to destroy production and endanger the people's life.

On U Thant's New Peace Proposal

(Continued from page 1)

Vietnam. Yet in his new proposal, he has not said anything about the demand for a prior cessation of the U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, instead he has put forth a so-called "general stand-still truce". Such a truce proposal would amount in fact to demanding that the Vietnamese people lay down their arms and give up the fight against the U.S. aggressors, while nearly 500,000 U.S. and satellite troops still tread on Vietnamese soil. Such an approach constitutes in itself an encouragement to the U.S. aggressors in Vietnam.

The new proposal has not referred in any way to a point of paramount importance in the settlement of the Vietnam problem, viz., the United States having engaged in an aggression in Vietnam, must put an end to this aggression and withdraw from South Vietnam all U.S. and satellite troops.

U Thant has advanced four forms of preliminary talks:

— Direct talks between the Government of the D.R.V. and the Government of the United States;

— Direct talks between the two above governments, with the participation of the Co-Chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference;

— Direct talks between the two above governments, with the participation of the members of the International Control Commission;

— Direct talks between the two above governments with the participation of the Co-Chairmen of the 1954 Geneva Conference and the members of the International Control Commission.

None of these forms contain any reference to the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation. The fact is that the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation is leading the South Vietnamese people in their struggle against the U.S. imperialists' aggression and controls already four-fifths of the territory with two-thirds of the population of South Vietnam. The U.S. imperialists' armed forces are fighting against the Front's armed forces. To attempt to solve the South Vietnam problem without recognizing the South Vietnam N.F.L. is to ignore the reality.

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IN short, U Thant's new proposal does not proceed from the most elementary principles of international law regarding the people's rights to independence and self-determination; nor does it proceed from the realities of the present situation in Vietnam.

This proposal has been made at a moment when the U.S. imperialists are undertaking extremely serious escalation steps in both zones of Vietnam, and at the same time exerting every effort to mislead people about their so-called "desire for peace" in an attempt to keep intensifying and expanding the war of aggression in Vietnam. In South Vietnam they have successively launched large- and small-scale military operations, and resorted to the most barbarous means of warfare with a view to carrying out their so-called "rural pacification" program. In North Vietnam, they have undertaken successive new escalation steps: shelling the D.R.V. territory north of the 17th parallel with long-range artillery based South of the demilitarized zone; systematic bombardment of coastal areas with heavy guns from warships; mining of rivers of a number of regions; stepped up bombing of industrial areas and densely populated areas of North Vietnam. The U.S. press has also disclosed many other criminal schemes and plans of the U.S. warmongers.

Recently, the United States has mounted a new propaganda drive about the so-called "35 peace efforts" and "five bombing pauses in North Vietnam". It is no accident that the United States has so hurriedly responded to U Thant's new plan. Even American newspapers consider that "U Thant's proposal for a general truce is beneficial to U.S diplomacy in the Vietnam war" (AFP, March 30, 1967).

Justice- and right-minded world opinion, and those who genuinely desire a settlement of the Vietnam problem on the basis of respect for the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people cannot agree to U Thant's new proposal.

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THE position of the Government of the D.R.V. with regard to a political solution of the Vietnam problem is very clear. In his reply to U.S. President L.B. Johnson, President Ho Chi Minh stated:

"The U.S. Government has unleashed the war of aggression in Vietnam. It must cease this aggression. That is the only way to the restoration of peace. The U.S. Government must stop definitively and unconditionally its bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam; withdraw from South Vietnam all U.S. and satellite troops; recognize the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation; and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs. Such is the basic content of the four-point stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, which embodies the essential principles and provisions of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam. It is the basis of a correct political solution to the Vietnam problem...

"It the U.S. Government really wants these talks, it must first of all stop unconditionally its bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. It is only after the unconditional cessation of the U.S. bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam that the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the United States could enter into talks and discuss questions concerning the two sides".

This just position has enjoyed the warm sympathy and support of the world's peoples. If the U.S. Government stubbornly refuses to heed the voice of reason, it will come up against still more vehement protests from peace- and justice-loving peoples in the world, including the American people, and will certainly suffer an ignominious defeat. For their independence an freedom and for peace, the Vietnamese people will further strengthen their unity and determination to carry on the war of resistance, and they are sure to win complete victory.

To Fight the U.S. Aggressors until Final Victory

"WHATEVER trials we may have to go through, whatever sacrifices we may have to endure, however intense U.S. bombings may grow, we shall ensure production, we are resolved to fight the U.S. aggressors until final victory," said elite worker Pham Van Canh in the name of his comrades, at a meeting held on March 22, 1967 at a workshop of the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel Complex.

That morning press and radio had transmitted President Ho Chi Minh's reply to U.S. President L.B. Johnson, and, as in all other units of that industrial centre and in almost all factories, construction sites, agricultural and handicraft co-operatives, and public establishments of North Vietnam, the workers at this workshop has decided to hold a brief meeting to pledge themselves to translate in concrete deeds their determination to defeat U.S. aggression.

In this context, the minute of silence observed in memory of Ngo Man, one of their fellow-workers, who had been killed two days ago at his post, took on a great meaning. It tore off the mask of sham "philanthropy" of Johnson, who had spoken of the "heavy toll in lives lost, in wounds inflicted, in property destroyed and in simple human misery".

Like most of his comrades, Ngo Man was a demobbed soldier, had come to Thai Nguyen right in the first days, had worked in clearing away the thickets, razing the hills and building this industrial centre, the pride of the whole country. And now he had been killed by a U.S. bomb splinter.

In this context, the pledge taken by each to go on working and fighting with courage also contains a precise meaning. Ever since U.S. aircraft started bombing the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel Complex, nearly a year ago, work here had been a continuous fight. To ensure continuous production — keep the furnaces burning, coke ovens glowing and molten metal flowing—while the plant was bombed and electrical power momentarily cut, asked for great courage and ingenuity.

Those worker-soldiers have so far fought scores of battles. They have shot down dozens of U.S. aircraft, among them the 1,000th U.S. plane downed over the D.R.V.

When he heard President Ho's reply to Johnson broadcast over the radio, as he was lying in a hospital bed swathed in bandages, Nguyen Chan declared:

"My hands have become callused building our plant. I have also shed my blood to defend it. I would like so much to be back on my feet again, to give my own reply to Johnson!"

To cope with U.S. intensified bombing of industrial areas, enterprises have split into smaller ones and moved to safety to continue operation. Though faced with many difficulties our workers bringing into full play their patriotism and determination to defeat the American aggressors on the production front, have overcome all obstacles to maintain and raise output. Below is a short reportage on the emulation movement at the Workshop No.2 of the 'March Eight' Weaving Mill, Hanoi — *Ed.*

Plan Overfulfilled

AFTER Workshop No.2 had been evacuated to safety it met with a lot of difficulties because of different working conditions. The looms were scattered in many small rooms in houses, which disturbed production processes: all-round control was hard and breakdown frequent because the weavers had not enough time to attend to all empty shuttles and broken thread. Hence productivity decreased and both output and quality fell short of the norm.

But these drawbacks were soon got rid of for the workers animated by deep patriotism and determination to defeat U.S. aggression, gradually raised both output and standard to an ever high record.

A BLOSSOMING OF ADVANCED WORKING METHODS

THE workshop leadership had met and decided that the weavers' patriotism and revolutionary heroism should be promoted and their creative spirit developed to fit management, technique and working methods to the new conditions.

Outstanding worker Phan Thi Dung was put in charge of boosting the movement with her example. She had several discussions with the leadership to find out the reasons why the weavers had failed to reach their norms both in quantity and quality, and the measures to improve technique for a higher output and standard. As a result of this Phan Thi Dung succeeded in fulfilling her shift quota of 29 metres with a rise of fifty per cent for the first-grade cloth and a cut of 5% of the norm for the 4th-grade cloth.

This set off a flurry in the workshop which culminated in an emulation movement to learn from, catch up and outstrip Phan Thi Dung.

Group 2, Shift A was the first to respond to the movement. After careful study it devised a new method of control which fitted the disposition of the looms in the evacuation place, saving labour while raising productivity. But, applying the same method Group 3, Shift A managed to obtain the highest efficiency in the workshop in both quantity and quality.

Group 2, Shift A then contrived a new way of replacing shuttles appropriate to the new method of control, easy to perform, and ensures high productivity and standard. Formerly, in Hanoi with an automatic device to replace shuttles a weaver had done 27.5 metres in a shift in the average, now in the evacuation place with his bare hands but applying improved working methods he could do even more: 29 metres, 29.5 or 30.5 metres...

"VALIANT FIGHTERS AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION" ON THE WEAVING FRONT

IN response to a "valiant fighter against U.S. aggression" emulation drive under the motto "one more metre turned out is tantamount to one more U.S. aggressor wiped out", 53 male and female workers fulfilled high norms, among them were 33 "anti-U.S. aggression fighters".

This month of emulation was launched in response to President Ho Chi Minh's sacred appeal against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. Innovations blossomed. Group 1, Shift A improved the replacement of shuttles a step further, easing the job and saving much time. Group 2, Shift A straightened into working condition over 1,000 hooks, then Group 3, Shift A used iron strips to prize up the shuttles, which was easier and quicker to do than before.

Weaver Pham Hong Lien, Group 1, Shift A, improved the thread joining by cutting down the time from 7 minutes to 5 minutes 21 seconds (for 10 threads) and the thread unraveling from 6 minutes to 2 minutes 19 seconds (for 6 centimetres).

Group 3, Shift C — all women — took the lead in the workshop with an average shift quota of 30 metres,

(Continued page 7)

Here and There in the DRV

11.2% Increase in Regional Industrial Production During the First Quarter of 1967

ACCORDING to preliminary estimates and counting only 28 provinces and cities, the total value of regional industrial production increased 11.2% during the first quarter of 1967, compared with the same period last year, accounting for 24% of the target of the State plan for the whole year.

The increase was 4% for mechanical engineering, 47.7 for chemical fertilizers, and 8.6% for current consumption goods.

Continuous Development of Regional Mechanical Production

UP to now, in 27 provinces and cities, there are 138 undertakings of regional mechanical engineering construction and hundreds of mechanical production co-operatives. Compared with 1965, in 1966 the total value of regional mechanical production increased 24.7%.

By mid-March, 1967 the engineering branch in Haiphong has turned out twice as many machines as in the corresponding period last year. The total of cutting machines increased threefold. Efforts were concentrated on producing machines for food processing and turning out consumer goods. Attention was paid to the research on light and handy machines with small capacity such as pressing, ironing, paper cutting, sugar cane pressing machines, candy mixers, cloth printing machines, and others.

Besides simple and common machines for the semi-mechanical production bases many complicated machines of high technical standard and great precision have been turned out.

These machines are supplied to the production bases serving agriculture, communication and transport and as additional equipment for engineering.

The engineering plant of Ha Bac province has produced a paper making machine light, handy and easily movable. Mass production of this machine is now under way to supply other provinces especially where raw materials to make paper are available.

Regional industry keeps on developing.
Photo: *Tan Long foundry in Haiphong*

Education in Wartime Develops Powerfully in Thanh Hoa Province

IN the conditions of U.S. continual and intense air and naval attacks, many efforts have been made by the people in Thanh Hoa province to overcome obstacles and open schools for half a million pupils. Elementary and secondary schools have been opened for children of minority nationalities in remote mountainous districts.

As far as complementary education is concerned, there are now in the province schools from the primary to secondary level for adults. They are run by agricultural co-operatives which provide facilities for their members to attend classes regularly.

By late 1966, the number of district and provincial level cadres having completed the 5th form had accounted for 91.9 percent, that of basic cadres, Party members, youth peasants and technicians having completed the primary education for 88 percent and the number of co-op members and other labouring people below 40 years of age and having completed the 2nd and 3rd forms for 88.8 percent of the total co-op membership.

At present, over 100,000 persons in the province are attending the elementary and secondary cultural and technical complementary schools, the "three responsibilities" courses and the part-time classes for minority youths.

(Continued page 7)

FOREIGN PRESS OPINION

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH's REPLY — A STERN INDICTMENT OF JOHNSON'S OBDURACY AND BRAZENNESS AND AN EXPRESSION OF THE JUSTICE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S CAUSE

"THE escalation of the dirty war in Vietnam is coupled with that of hypocrisy.

"Typical of this is the record of '25 peace efforts' and '5 pauses in the bombing' since 1964 published by the U.S. administration. This statement lists all the sham 'peace propositions' of U.S. representatives, and also a number of moves taken in other countries. Washington's propaganda campaign is aimed at proving that how 'good' the U.S. aggressors are and how 'obstinate' their victims are in refusing to negotiate. But how can world opinion give credence to an aggressor's 'goodwill for peace'?"

Krasnaia Zvezda
(USSR), Mar. 31, 1967

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"IN his reply to U.S. President Johnson, once again D.R.V. President Ho Chi Minh pointed out that the only way to restore peace in Vietnam is that the U.S. Government which has unleashed the war of aggression must cease this aggression. This is a legitimate demand for there is no other path to peace in Vietnam".

Rude Pravo
(Czechoslovakia), Mar. 23,1967

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"D.R.V. President Ho Chi Minh's letter to U.S. President Johnson's message was a stern indictment of Johnson's obduracy and brazenness. At the same time it is an expression of the justice of the cause the Vietnamese people are upholding against U.S. aggression, for national salvation".

Minjou Chosen
(KPDR) Mar. 25, 1967

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"D.R.V. President Ho Chi Minh's letter once again expounded the iron-like determination of the Vietnamese people who resolutely reject Johnson's deceitful and bellicose terms. Ignoring the just stand of the D.R.V., Johnson has convened the Guam conference and openly stated his design to intensify U.S. aggression against South and North Vietnam".

Akahata
(Japan), Mar. 27, 1967

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"THE publication of these two letters has placed Washington in a quandary. Indeed, it is never pleasant to be unmasked... All the U.S. ruling circles says is sheer hypocrisy."

El Moudjahid
(Algeria), Mar. 27, 1967

(Continued page 7)

AMERICAN PEOPLE'S GROWING OPPOSITION TO L.B. J.'s VIETNAM WAR

Demonstrations of Americans against Washington's Vietnam war policy

Women

Students

OPPOSITION to the Vietnam war has kept growing in the U.S.A. Starting from American universities, so far rarely engaged in a politica turmoil, the dissent developing into protest has rapidly spread out on campuses and won over more and more people from all walks of life.

Liberal and progressive opinion at first mobilized against nuclear race and racial segregation has now given top priority to the Vietnam question.

As early as 1962, President Kennedy's adventurist policy in Vietnam alarmed progressive intellectuals whose letter appearing on April 16 in the *New York Times* was a manifesto and a warning. Since 1965, the Vietnam war which had been remote from the thought of the American man in the street has asserted itself as a reality in the nation's life because of two facts: "escalation" against the D.R.V. and massive despatch of G.I.'s to South Vietnam.

Protest action has spread from New York to California, including such radical measures as civil disobedience. Responding to the call of the New Left and various progressive groups thousands of people have demonstrated. Protest days observed by the Vietnam Day Committee gathered 100,000 people in November 1965 and 200,000 in March 1966. The Committee for Non-Violent Action (C.N.V.A.)— in co-ordination with other groups — has launched a "Vietnam Protest" campaign. The Congress of

(Continued page 6)

THE WHOLE WORLD IS ON OUR SIDE

CAMBODIA

ON Mar. 30, 1967, the Cambodian Foreign Ministry issued a statement strongly condemning the U.S. imperialists for their new escalation against the D.R.V. "The Royal Government and people of Cambodia," the statement stressed, "also victims of the obdurate U.S. policy of aggression in Southeast Asia, fully support the Mar. 1, 1967 statement of the D.R.V. Foreign Ministry sternly condemning the new escalations in Vietnam by the U.S. imperialists and greatly admire the anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation of the heroic brother Vietnamese people".

GUINEA

IN an interview with Nguyen Duc Thieng, D.R.V. ambassador in Conakry, General Diané Lansana, Minister of the People's Army and Civic Service of the Republic of Guinea, declared, "The valiant fight of the Vietnamese people shods a brighter light on this truth: 'The people's patriotic war will defeat any enemy including the U.S. imperialists'. However hysterical, the imperialists are doomed to failure. The people of both South and North Vietnam will not yield to threat. The world's people stand by the Vietnamese people's side. The Guinean people and armed forces pledge moral and political support to their Vietnamese counterparts to help them towards victory".

AUSTRALIA

SEAMEN of the *Boonaru* and *Zeparit* still persist in refusing to transport ammunition to South Vietnam for the U.S imperialists. William Flint, a seaman of the *Zeparit* denounced and condemned the crimes of the U.S. aggressors which he had seen for himself during his first call at Vung Tau. Seaman Basile Box of the *Boonaru* said, "I had transported Australian troops during World War II and had never violated the labour contract, because this war was against fascism. But now, I dislike being involved in a dirty undertaking and murder of civilians".

DENMARK AND NORWAY

ON the occasion of the commemoration of the Nazi attack on Denmark and Norway (Apr. 9, 1940) many mass organizations in Denmark, Norway and Sweden undertook activities in solidarity with the Vietnamese people, called "Vietnam Week", from Apr. 3 to Apr. 9. In Stockholm, a big demonstration was held to condemn U.S. crimes against the Vietnamese people and to demand U.S. troop withdrawal from South Vietnam and an end to U.S. bombing of the D.R.V.

WEST GERMANY

ON the occasion of the Easter holiday, about 150,000 people from 20 West German cities staged a march and held meetings and demonstrations, demanding that the U.S. government stop massacring the Vietnamese people and that the West German Government refrain from supporting the U.S. war of aggression in Vietnam. In West Berlin 5,000 demonstrators hoisted the flag of the D.R.V. on top of a hotel and shouted, "Support to Ho Chi Minh!" After that, they marched on the U.S. "Cultural House", surrounded it, and hurled rotten eggs and paint at it, while shouting slogans against the U.S. criminal war of aggression in Vietnam.

TURKEY

IN an article in the Ankara paper *Ulus* headlined "Vietnam and Turkey", Prof. Hebert, the paper's diplomatic commentator, wrote, "Except for a few who deliberately ignore the real motive behind the Vietnam war, the entire Turkish people are on the side of the Vietnamese people. They cannot think otherwise because the people must be masters of their own destiny".

BRITAIN

MILITANTS and members of the Committee of One Hundred in Britain distributed tens of thousands of leaflets patterned after the U.S. dollar. On the back side was printed a protest against U.S. appropriations for the war of aggression in Vietnam. On March 23, London police impounded 25,000 such leaflets at a shop run by a member of the said Committee.

HANOI TRIBUNE

No To West German Expansionism and Neo-Nazism !

THE G.D.R. press agency *ADN* has reported that at a press conference held in Berlin on Mar. 29, 1967, a Grey Paper was made public, which dealt with "West German Expansionism and Neo-Nazism". This 400-page document published by the National Council of the National Front of the G.D.R. contains plenty of evidence about neo-nazism taking roots and developing in West Germany.

The book shows that the policy pursued at present by the Kiesinger government is a neo-nazi one, whose aim can be summarized as follows: to demand a revision of the boundary line; to abolish the present state of things; expansionism; counter-revolutionary subversive activities against socialist countries in Eastern and Southern Europe; hegemony, over Europe. In view of these aims, the fact that West Germany has pursued a hostile policy towards the German Democratic Republic, that it claims to be the only representative of Germany, and carries out the Hallstein doctrine (no diplomatic relations with whatever country has such relations with the G.D.R.) takes on special significance.

The book contains seven main chapters. Chapter One deals with West German expansionism, with parts devoted to West German-American collusion, specially concerning the U.S. aggressive war in Vietnam. The other chapters deal with the machinations of West German ruling circles aimed at laying their hands on nuclear weapons; the West German army, tool of an aggressive policy; organizations of monopoly capital, etc...

The Vietnamese people are very angry at the neo-nazi policy pursued by the Bonn government and consider it a brazen provocation against the German Democratic Republic, the socialist camp as a whole, and progressive people all over the world. This policy is a gross violation of such international documents as the statement prohibiting interference in other countries' affairs and that on the nations' sovereignty and independence.

News from LAOS

Mutiny in the Armed Forces of the Lao Rightist Faction at Kham Muon

ACCORDING to *Pathet Lao* Radio, on March 15 last, seventy patriotic soldiers in the armed forces of the Lao rightist faction stationed at Kham Muon (Central Laos), having grown conscious of the correctness of the policy pursued by the *Neo Lao Haksat*, one of fighting against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, and tired of serving as mercenaries for the U.S. imperialists, rose up against the reactionary lackeys of the Americans with the help of a unit of the Lao Liberation forces.

After killing three of their wicked commanders, wounding four, capturing four and forcing two to surrender, those patriotic soldiers, together with local Liberation forces and guerillas, liberated 3 posts, captured 120 weapons of various kinds, among them a recoilless gun, seven machine-guns, 50 carbines and other military equipment.

AMERICAN PEOPLE'S GROWING OPPOSITION TO L.B.J.'s VIETNAM WAR

(Continued from page 5)

Unrepresented People has set up a National Co-ordinating Committee to End the War in Vietnam (N.C.C.). In spite of the spectre of reawakening maccarthysm, individual and collective acts, and bold initiatives showing great civic courage have increased. Such effervescence would have been unthinkable some twelve years ago, during the Korean war. It testifies to the awakening of American conscience.

In the movement, the youth — and specifically students — have been the most active and the most resolute standard-bearers.

Young Americans of the 60's have "committed themselves": They have broken with the mutism and the rebellion "without a cause" of the Beat Generation during the 50's. The credit of the first demonstration in the U.S.A. against the Vietnam war sent to "Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF).

It is at the beginning of 1965 that the students' movement began to focus its attention on the Vietnam problem. It was originally made up of "Students for a Democratic Society" (SDS), "Student Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee" (SNCC), Du Bois Clubs, YAWF etc... The youth has been the shock force o. peace marches, information and protest rallies. It has staged a "beat-the-draft-campaign". David Mitchell, tried for having refused service in Vietnam, condemned the government' policy before the court, thus expressing the viewpoint of Pieter Romage Clark, David Miller, Dennis Mora and hundreds of other young Americans indicted on the same charge.

Norman Morrison burnt himself to death to make public opinion alive to the Vietnam war. He was not the only man in the U.S.A. to make this symbolic gesture.

Professors have tried to throw light on the Vietnam problem. "Teach-ins" have been invented. In May 1965, a 36 hours' teach-in found a large echo at home and abroad. Sponsored by the "Vietnam Day Committee", a group of students, professors and other members of the Berkeley — San Francisco Community, it attracted on May 21 and 22 at least 35,000 people and reached half a million people by radio. 40 speakers condemned the war of "genocide".

American intellectuals have also been among the first to join in the struggle against aggression. Let us mention again the letter addressed to the Chief Executive by 16 American personalities (*New York Times*, April 16, 1962).

"We wish to ask you why at present the United States is sending its Army, Navy and Air Force to bring death and bloodshed to South Vietnam, a small Asian country approximately 10,000 miles from our Pacific Coast". In March 1963, 62 American intellectuals gave another warning to Kennedy: "The number of Americans killed and wounded steadily grows. South Vietnam could become America's Algeria".

Professors, writers, artists, scientists have not been deceived by the quibbles of the White House and have not let themselves be intimidated by threats. Their clear-cut position was defined in the statement by Professor Staughton Lynd in January 1965, before the Hanoi intellectuals: "Our intellectuals have torn up the blindfold and looked straight into the reality of the world..."

Several artists and writers have refused to support Johnson's Decree on literature and art. In a letter to L.B.J., Arthur Miller declared that when cannons thundered, art died. World-famous scientists such as Linus Pauling have not hesitated to "commit themselves". Supported by twenty of his peers, Robert Lowell boycotted the Festival of Arts organized by the White House. M.S. Arnoni, editor of the *Minority of One* even called for American volunteers to fight on the side of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation. Public attention has been directed to a 26-page document of the "Lawyers' Committee on American policy towards Vietnam" and a protest letter signed by over 6,000 American intellectuals (*New York Times* — June 5, 1966). Lawyers arrived at the conclusion that in Vietnam, the U.S.A. was violating the main provisions of the U.N. Charter, the Geneva Agreements and its own Constitution. On February 14, 1967 5,000 American scientists including 17 Nobel prize winners demanded that Johnson stop using gas and noxious chemicals in South Vietnam.

More and more American negroes have joined in the movement against the war in Vietnam. This is a thorny problem for the White House, the more so as their struggle will inevitably lead to the struggle for the negroes' democratic rights: victims of racial segregation, "negroes, better than anyone else, are in a position to question the war—not because they understand the war better but because they better understand the United States" (Robert Parris, S.N.C.C. activist). The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party states: "No one has a right to ask us to risk our lives and kill other colored people in Santo Domingo and Vietnam... We will be looked upon as traitors by all the colored people of the world". Denouncing the two fronts of racist reaction, negroes put forward such slogans as "Vietnam and Watts, it is the same struggle".

By nature averse to ruins and death, indignant at U.S. crimes in South Vietnam, American women have from the very beginning condemned the Vietnam war. They also fear that their men would become "torturers and killers" or "die a senseless death" (Communiqué for the Women's Peace March on May 7, 1965). After a meeting between a delegation of American women and a delegation of Vietnamese women in Djakarta (July 1965), an appeal was addressed to the American people, stressing that American mothers do not want their sons to go and massacre harmless people.

The revolt of conscience against the "dirty war" has also broken out among religious circles. The savage suppression of South Vietnam Buddhists in July 1963 by the U.S.—Ngo Dinh Diem clique prompted to the Ministers' Vietnam Committee the famous statement "We, too, protest" which collected in two months 17,358 signatures from clergymen of various religions. On April 3, 1965, the clergymen's Emergency Committee on Vietnam (of the Fellowship of Reconciliation) published an open letter to Johnson saying: "In the name of God, Stop it!" Public opinion admires the uncompromising attitude of the late Rev. A.J. Muste, minister S. Fritshenan and young catholic Roger Laporte who burnt himself dead. Back from a fact finding trip to Saigon (April 1966), A.J. Muste concluded that only the Vietnamese could settle their own affairs and the U.S.A. had to withdraw from South Vietnam. After visiting North Vietnam, he announced (January 1967) the founding of a new organization to carry on the struggle against the Vietnam war. The trade-union movement has also shown some promising changes. On March 6, 1966, 300 Union members met in Detroit to form "Trade Unionists for Peace". Two days later, 1,200 others met in New York to protest against the Vietnam war and hear calls for Union participation in the 5th Avenue Peace Parade.

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THE United States has experienced three wars in this century. None of them has brought about draft-cards burning, flagrant draft dodging, self-immolation by fire, over one hundred thousand-strong demonstrations. The consequences of the present war — human casualties, slowing down of the great society, large expenditures — will certainly give an ever stronger impetus to the movement.

The world peoples, particularly the Vietnamese people, follow with admiration and support, the valiant struggle waged by honest Americans against the American imperialists who are smearing the honour of the land of Lincoln and Du Bois by savagely assaulting an independence and peace-loving people.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

PLAN OVERFULFILLED

(Continued from page 4)

giving a fillip to the emulation movement to catch up and outstrip top notch weavers.

But all these records were broken during the next drive under the motto "nothing is more valuable than independence and freedom". The "youth group" (Group 1, Shift A) which held the new record of 31.5 metres, had to yield the palm to Group 2, Shift C and Group 1 Shift C. Group 2, Shift C — all women — overfulfilled the November 1966 target with 4,467 metres. Most remarkable were Nguyen Mong Thuoc and Phan Thi Loc. The former 19, continually in the van, was the first worker to fulfil her year quota 35 days ahead of schedule. The latter, 20, set an outstanding record of 33.2 metres with a high standard.

Inspired by a deep patriotism and a bitter hatred for the American imperialist aggressors, which were translated into a powerful emulation movement throughout 1966, the weavers of Workshop No. 2 overcame all the difficulties in the evacuation place and overfulfilled their quotas by 102.25 per cent.

In the first three months of this year, new records were set: outstanding worker Phan Thi Ty turned out 33.6 metres of khaki per shift, Nguyen Thi Nga managed to fulfil her plan by 40 per cent. Group 3, Shift B raised its shift quota to 32.4 metres, and the whole workshop overfulfilled its February target by 16,000 metres of fabric.

At present, all the workers and employees there are doing their utmost to turn out "more, quicker, better and cheaper" cloth to show their determination to defeat the American aggressors on the weaving front and to overfulfil the state plan.

FOR THE FAMILIES OF U.S. PRISONERS

To: **Marian Christy Waltman** a W. Mullan Avs Kellongg Idelo.

Dear Marian, children and parents,

I am glad to have this opportunity to let you know that my health is very good, and that I am being treated leniently and humanely. Christmas day was made a special day for us; we had decorations, an altar to pray at, and extra food which was excellently prepared.

I want to wish you all a very happy New Year. I pray constantly for peace so that we can be re-united and make it a happier one.

I hope your health is good also.

Soon I will write a long new year letter, so you can be expecting to have it come in the mail.

I love you all so very much. Take good care of yourselves.

DONALD G. WALTMAN

Captain, F.R.53895, Korat, Thailand, captured on September 19, 1966 in Ha Bac

GPX (Liberation Press Agency) reported that over the past few days direct confrontation with the U.S. aggressors and their stooges against their policy of "pacification" and regroupment, against wanton killing and destruction and against house eviction and land usurpation for the building of military bases, has taken place in various parts of Nam Bo (South Vietnam proper).

In Cho Lon, on Mar. 19, angered by the crimes committed by the U.S. agressors who, during their raid on Ben Luc, had terrorized and plundered the population, and raped women including wives and daughters of officers and men of the puppet army, the local people together with 1,500 puppet troops and administration personnel, teachers and pupils assembled on the local puppet administration office and shouted "Down with U.S. aggressors!", "Yankees, get out!", "Down with Johnson's peace fraud!" etc... The demonstration lasted for an hour.

On Mar. 7, in Duc Hoa district, 6 "pacification" cadres ordered the dismantling within a week of 300 houses in the factory area near the district town, to make room for military construction. The local people waged a resolute struggle and asked many questions: Why does the nationalist government force the people to evacuate while claiming to protect them? Why should we be evicted from this land which is the fruit of our ancestors' labour and not American property?...

SOUTH VIETNAM

"PACIFICATION" AND REGROUPMENT OF PEOPLE OPPOSED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF NAM BO

They stood firm, saying "We'd die here, on this land, than move away!". Later, more than 500 petitions handed in by the people compelled the puppet administrators to give way.

In Gia Dinh, in the 20 days ending Feb. 24, the inhabitants of Phuoc Thanh village (Cu Chi district) waged a relentless struggle against the village and district puppet administration. They denounced the crimes perpetrated by the U.S. aggressors in this locality and demanded an end to them. A young woman from Vuon Trau hamlet was run in at Suoi Cut post. Although denied food for 7 days running, she remained unyielding and finally had her way.

In Ben Tre, on Feb. 27, more than 30 inhabitants of Vang Quoi village (Binh Dai district) met the village puppet authorities to oppose the U.S. order forcing the people to evacuate while claiming to protect them. Why should we be evicted from this land which is the fruit of our ancestors' labour and not American property?... "Yankees, get out of Ben Tre, get out of South Vietnam!". The demonstrators swung into action to rescue 6 women arrested by thugs. The local puppet authorities had to comply with the people's demands.

In My Tho, early in March, hundreds of inhabitants from Vinh Kim and Tan Hiep villages, Chau Thanh district, carried the bodies of those killed by U.S. shelling to the district town to demand compensation. They also demanded that the Americans return the land they had seized for military construction and order an end to wanton shelling of villages and hamlets.

In Tay Ninh, on March 7 and 8, hundreds of people in Trang Bang district town, handed in petitions demanding that the local puppet authorities lift their ban on free purchase of rice and other foodstuffs and reduce the cost of living. Earlier, plantation workers had pressed for a betterment of their living conditions, 170 pupils in the district town demanded reduction of tuition fees, and hundreds of people refused to write "family reports" and demanded the release of those arbitrarily arrested. Many puppet soldiers supported these demands.

FOREIGN PRESS OPINION (Continued from page 5)

U THANT DELIBERATELY PUTS THE AGGRESSOR AND HIS VICTIM ON THE SAME FOOTING

"IN his recent proposals U Thant laid down these conditions which would make it possible for the U.S. to continue occupying South Vietnam. The North Vietnamese must suspend their support for their compatriots in the South, the South Vietnamese must give up their struggle against U.S. aggression in exchange for a U.S. cease fire. This amounts to demand that the Vietnamese people lay down their weapons and cease fighting while more than 400,000 U.S. aggressors occupy their country, or that they must kneel down before the U.S. aggressors and surrender to U.S. firepower. These proposals only help the U.S. aggressors to use the 'peace smokescreen' to cover up the Johnson administration's criminal plot to expand its aggressive war against Vietnam".

Renmin Ribao (China), Mar. 31, 1967

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"U THANT's "three-point" programme calling for a general cease fire fits in with the U.S. claim that Vietnam must show 'restraint' and reciprocate an eventual cessation of U.S. savage bombings against the D.R.V.

"... It is precisely because this proposal tallies with the U.S. imperialists' claims and interests that it is so highly hailed by Johnson and Rusk".

Jeri I Popullit (Albania), Apr. 1, 1967.

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"U THANT's proposal has played into the hands of the U.S. ruling circles who are using it as a propaganda stunt".

Tribuna Mazowiecka (Poland) Mar. 31, 1967

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"U THANT's 'new formula' to solve the Vietnam problem perfectly suits the U.S. imperialists' strategy. He simply played on words by replacing 'negotiations' by preliminary talks and 'cessation of military operations' by 'general cease fire'. Just a new wording for an old content. He deliberately put the aggressor and his victim on the same footing".

La Nouvelle Dépêche (Cambodia), Mar. 31, 1967

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"IN U Thant's 'new formula' on the Vietnam question, U.S. aggression (in Vietnam) has been glossed over and the American aggressors placed on the same footing as the Vietnamese people who are engaged in a self-liberation fight... This struggle against U.S. aggression is a struggle for national independence. Short of this fundamental viewpoint there can't be any discrimination between the aggressor and his victim".

Tameer (Pakistan), Apr. 3, 1967

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"U THANT's proposal is not realistic politically, for a cessation of hostilities is nothing but a U.S. demand in a different form. To end hostilities is to equate the aggressor with his victim... U Thant's proposal strengthens Johnson's hand in escalating his aggressive war in Vietnam".

The Patriot (India), Apr. 2, 1967

Here and There in the D.R.V.

(Continued from page 5)

Complementary Education in Nam Ha

DURING the 1966-67 school year, there are in Nam Ha 130,000 people going to complementary education classes (for grown-ups), among them 45,000 for 2nd level (junior secondary) education and 15,000 for 3rd level (senior secondary) education.

Art Festival "Against U.S. Aggression, for National Salvation"

UNDER the auspices of the Haiphong Trade Union Federation, an art festival was recently held, attended by 148 artistic groups coming from various economic undertakings and administrative services of the city. Two-thirds of the items presented were composed by the workers and peasants themselves. Similar festivals have been held in Thanh Hoa and Nghe An.

In Cao Bang, a province in the Highlands, inhabited by people belonging to various national minorities, an art festival was also held, attended by 44 artistic groups. The items presented were largely drawn from the local folklore, and many were performed in the languages of the minorities.

L. A. F. FRESH VICTORIES

IN TAY NINH *(Late in March and Early in April)*

3,100 G.I.'s Wiped Out, 346 Vehicles Including 249 Tanks and Armoured Cars Destroyed, 40 Aircraft Downed

LATE in March and early in April the Tay Ninh battlefield was still in focus. Heavily defeated in Operation *Junction City*, this time American forces deployed into the area between Highway No 22 and Highway No 13, northeast of Tay Ninh province comprised only 5 brigades.

In the first 10 days of the operation (between Mar. 20 and Mar. 29), American troops came under guerillas and regional forces' constant attacks everywhere they went. Their road transport and their encampments were subjected to ambushes and surprise attacks. As a result, in the period under review the guerillas and regional forces killed or wounded 632 G.I.'s, destroyed 46 military vehicles and shot down 14 aircraft in the Mount Ba Den and Loc Ninh areas, respectively 10 and 20km northeast of Tay Ninh provincial capital. In the same period, the guerillas and regional forces in Soc Con Trang, about 50km northeast of the provincial capital, wiped out 232 more G.I.'s, destroyed 18 military vehicles and shot down 8 choppers.

After having worn the enemy out for some time and inflicted rather serious losses on him, the L.A.F. began luring him into bigger annihilation battles on the highway from Bo Tuc to Soc Con Trang, northeast of the provincial capital, nearly 10 km from the Cambodian border. On Mar.31, from noon till late in the afternoon, they completely destroyed one U.S. company and inflicted serious losses on another. This compelled the enemy to call in one reinforced battalion to form, together with two remaining companies, two groups in preparation for a counter - attack the next day. That very night, the L.A.F. attacked this battalion and completely destroyed it.

On a battlefield very familiar and well prepared beforehand, the L.A.F. fully maintained the initiative and won great victories. Fighting is still going on but as the American troops are now in a defensive position, their new operation is doomed to failure like the recent operation *Junction City*.

By Apr. 3, the L.A.F. had already wiped out 3,100 G.I.'s, destroyed 346 military vehicles (including 249 tanks and armoured personnel carriers) and 15 artillery pieces and shot down 40 aircraft, G.P.X. (Liberation Press Agency) reported.

ON OTHER BATTLEFIELDS

Second in fierceness remained the battlefield covering the 2 provinces of *Quang Tri* and *Thua Thien*.

In the first half of March alone, the L.A.F. wiped out over 3,000 enemy troops, including 2,300 Americans, shot down 19 aircraft and destroyed 14 artillery pieces and 23 military vehicles. On Mar. 17, the guerillas and regional forces intercepted 3 puppet battalions in a raid on the Ha Mi area, 3km northwest of Tien Phong district, in the neighbourhood of the provincial capital. With spikes, mines, booby traps and other weapons, the resourceful local armed forces put 260 raiders out of action, routed 2 platoons of civil guards, set 5 armoured personnel carriers on fire and shot down one jet. The raid beaten off, the enemy troops retreated and while they were in disarray, the L.A.F. pursued them, increased their confusion and took an additional toll of over 100.

After that, the local L.A.F. further landed the enemy in a fix with an ambush coordinated with the shelling of Doc Mieu, Gio Linh district, by the Vietnam People's Army from the North, destroying 15 lorry-loads of ammunition (Mar. 21), and with an attack on U.S. marines, 22km northwest of Quang Tri provincial capital, leaving 115 casualties (Mar. 24). In addition, they launched a raid on an enemy military training camp, 4km southwest of Hue city (on the night of Mar. 23), made a surprise attack on 2 enemy positions in Huong Tra district (Mar. 23), wiped out 3 puppet platoons in Phu Vang district (Mar. 19) etc...

Fighting also took place in *Central Trung Bo*. On the night of Mar. 23 the L.A.F. heavily shelled the U.S. field airstrip and military installations around Duc Pho district town, Quang Ngai province, wiping out 400 G.I.'s, burning 2 ammunition depots and a petrol dump, and destroying 6 aircraft, 6 artillery pieces and 10 military vehicles. On Mar. 26, the L.A.F. virtually destroyed one company and inflicted heavy losses on 2 battalions of puppet troops on Highway No 1, near Phu My, Binh Dinh province.

SAIGON ELECTIONS:

A Demagogic Move To Cover Up U.S. War Step-up

ON orders from the U.S., the Saigon puppet administration is giving much publicity to, and making active preparations for, the so-called "village people's council elections" and "Presidential and parliamentary elections", etc... G.P.X. (Liberation Press Agency) reported that on March 28, a statement of the spokesman for the C.C. of the South Vietnam N.F.L. was released, exposing the election farce staged by the U.S. imperialists and their puppet Thieu-Ky clique. The statement read:

"This is a further anti-national and anti-popular act on their part, a political manoeuvre aimed at putting 'legal' and 'democratic' looks on the puppet administration which is being increasingly isolated, detested and cursed within and without the country, creating an impression of artificial stability to deceive public opinion, serving the step-up of their rural 'pacification' programme, the stabilization of their rear, the tightening of their grip on the population, the intensification of plunder, exploitation, regrouping of the people and troop pressganging, and at the same time reconciling the contradictions within the ranks of U.S. lackeys.

"In order to achieve genuine independence, democracy and genuine peace, our people as a whole have risen up, resolved to drive the U.S. aggressors out of the country, overthrow the traitorous puppet regime and establish a broad national and democratic coalition government. Our people deeply realize that so long as the U.S. imperialists carry on their war of aggression against South Vietnam, so long as the puppet administration — lackeys of the U.S. — still exercises a harsh control over our compatriots, there can only be fascism and dictatorship and not democracy, only repression and terrorism and not freedom. Thus, the 'hamlet and village people's council election' and 'presidential, parliamentary election' farce would be nothing but a 'democracy' trick aimed at consolidating the power of the reactionaries and serving the war of aggression of the U.S. imperialists".

In conclusion, the statement stressed:

"No schemes and acts, however perfidious and cruel, can save the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen from complete failure. The South Vietnamese people will certainly win final victory".

U.S. aircraft downed by the L.A.F.

THAI AUTHORITIES TAG AFTER WASHINGTON MORE OPENLY IN VIETNAM WAR

OVER the past few months, while stepping up repression in the country, the Bangkok rulers have more and more clearly revealed their true colours as servants of the U.S. imperialists in their aggression in Vietnam, especially since the Washington - wirepulled Manila conference in September last year. They have sold out their people's national rights by welcoming American troops to Thailand in increasing numbers — 35,000 now — and by allowing the United States to set up air, naval and logistic bases all over the country, thereby using it as a springboard against Vietnam and Laos. Most significantly, they have permitted Bangkok building up of a huge base at Sattahip in the Gulf of Thailand, paving the way for massive introduction of U.S. forces in case the need for such a step arises, and of two other larger ones for strategic bombers B.52 at Utapao and Khonken. *UPI* disclosed on January 14, 1967 that B.52's had been brought into Utapao for the intensification of "bombings against communist North Vietnam".

Moreover, the Thai authorities are tailing after the U.S. aggressors in a more serious manner. After the dispatch of a number of air and naval units to South Vietnam, they decided in early January to send there another 1,000-strong battalion of mercenaries.

Again on March 9, at a press conference in Bangkok they brazenly stated that they would put their bases at the disposal of the U.S. air force for bombing missions over North Vietnam, which was tantamount to a new very grave step.

The above-mentioned actions of the Bangkok reactionary rulers not only constitute serious crimes against the Vietnamese people, but also betray the interests of Thai people and undermine the traditional friendship between them both. Together with the people of Thailand, we sternly warn the Bangkok authorities that they will have to bear the responsibility for all the consequences of their crimes.

Chiefly in the *Mekong Delta*, the enemy's passiveness and predicament are obvious. Following their shelling of Bac Lieu provincial capital wiping out 364 enemy troops (Mar. 1) and their attacks on 3 enemy positions in Ben Tre province (Mar. 13) wiping out 300 more enemy troops, in a single day (Mar. 23) the L.A.F. sank 6 U.S. war vessels, set 3 on fire and damaged another on the Ham Luong river, Mo Cay district, wiping out all 1,000 troops on board, among them 2 U.S. companies totalling 300 men.

To sum up, since the beginning of the 1966-1967 dry season, the American troops have been experiencing one failure after another on the main battlefield, that is, in the Eastern part of Nam Bo, while being constantly attacked on all other battlefields and even in their base camps, because, spread dangerously thin on South Vietnam territory, they are not in a position to parry the blows of the local L.A.F.